

CLAIMS:

1. An optically anisotropic body characterized in being obtainable by providing a body comprising a polymerizable electro-optical and/or magneto-optical material capable of being brought into an optically anisotropic state in response to an electric and/or magnetic field,

5 subjecting the polymerizable electro-optical and/or magneto-optical material to a non-uniform electric and/or magnetic field to establish electric and/or magnetic field lines in accordance with a desired pattern within the electro-optical and/or magneto-optical material, the electric and/or magnetic field lines being of sufficient strength for aligning the material and bringing the material into a desired optically anisotropic state commensurate
10 with the non-uniform electric and/or magnetic field, and

polymerising the material in said optically anisotropic state to provide the optically anisotropic body.

2. An optically anisotropic body according to claim 1, wherein the electro-optical
15 and/or magneto-optical material is a liquid crystal (LC) monomer.

3. An optically anisotropic body according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the body comprising said polymerizable material is provided on an alignment layer.

20 4. An optically anisotropic body according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said non-uniform electric and/or magnetic field is applied by use of a plurality of spaced electrodes and/or magnetic poles.

25 5. An optically anisotropic body according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said non-uniform electric and/or magnetic field is applied by use of at least one structured electrode and/or magnetic pole pair.

6. An optically anisotropic body according to any one of claims 4 or 5, wherein said non-uniform electric and/or magnetic field is applied by use of a plurality of spaced electrodes and/or magnetic poles arranged at one side of the body.

5 7. An optically anisotropic body according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein one or more electrode(s) and/or magnetic pole(s) is/are part of the body.

8. An optically anisotropic body according to claim 7, which comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes and/or magnetic poles arranged at one side of the body.

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9. An optically anisotropic body according to any one of claims 1-8, which is selected from the group consisting of a polariser, a compensation foil, and a micro-lens array.